

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 268

By Ford

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Leigh Anne Tuohy of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Anne Tuohy is one such laudable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Anne is well-known as the adoptive mother of NFL standout Michael Oher and as the matriarch of the Tuohy family; and

WHEREAS, the Tuohy family's life was chronicled in Michael Lewis's best selling book *The Blind Side*, which went on to inspire a major motion picture; and

WHEREAS, the blockbuster film became a record-breaker, earning more than \$300 million at the box office and having the number-one opening for a sports film in history; and

WHEREAS, beyond being an inspiration for both a book and a film, Leigh Anne Tuohy is a standout citizen, who works diligently to assist others; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Anne's encouraging story starts in Tennessee; she is a Memphis native, and attended Briarcrest Christian School before going on to attend the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, while in college, she met the man who would become her husband, Sean Tuohy; and

WHEREAS, since their days as college co-eds, the Tuohys have become successful entrepreneurs; with both Sean and Leigh Anne owning their own businesses and pursuing their individual ventures, all while supporting each other along the way; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Tuohy are the proud parents of three children: Collins, Michael, and Sean, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, after the Tuohys took a young Michael Oher under their wings, he became a better student and an exceptional athlete; he credits much of his success to the love and support of the Tuohy family; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a loving and devoted mother, Leigh Anne Tuohy is active in many civic and faith-based organizations including Grace Evangelical Church, of which she and her family are founding members; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Tuohy established the charity, *The Making It Happen Foundation*, which promotes awareness, provides hope, and improves standards of living for all the children fighting to survive in the invisible cracks of society; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Anne is also the co-author of *In a Heartbeat: Sharing the Power of Cheerful Giving*; through these projects, Mr. and Mrs. Tuohy continue their mission of inspiring hope and igniting generosity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tuohy is a celebrated public speaker who desires to inspire her audiences to recognize the full potential of individuals in their community; and

WHEREAS, she has made it her mission to serve the deserving, yet underserved youth of our communities; and

WHEREAS, through her efforts, Leigh Anne Tuohy has proven her leadership ability and unparalleled commitment to improving the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, just a few years after *The Blind Side* came into popular culture, Mrs. Tuohy has been able to make an impact in her community and nationwide; she wrote a best selling book, founded a charity, and has made numerous appearances on national television; it is appropriate that this legislative body pause to recognize this outstanding citizen; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Leigh Anne Tuohy for her honorable and astute

service to the good people of Tennessee, recognize her as an inspiration to the citizens of this State, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.